LEAGUE OF UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD.

PLEDGE.

Believing all war to be inconsistent with the spirit of Christianity, and destructive of the best interests of mankind, I do hereby pledge myself never to enlist or enter into any army or navy, or to yield any *voluntary* support or sanction to the preparation for or prosecution of any war, by whomsoever, or for whatsoever proposed, declared, or waged. And I do hereby associate myself with all persons, of whatever country, condition, or colour, who have signed, or shall hereafter sign this pledge, in a "LEAGUE OF UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD;" whose object shall be to employ all legitimate and moral means for the abolition of all war, and all the spirit and all the manifestations of war, throughout the world; for the abolition of all restrictions upon international correspondence and friendly intercourse, and of whatever else tends to make enemies of nations, or prevents their fusion into one peaceful brotherhood; for the abolition of all institutions and customs which do not recognize and respect the image of God and a human brother in every man, of whatever clime, colour or condition of humanity.

_____ Name.

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_____ Residence.

Frome, Sept 8 1846

Dear Friend Garrison

I regret most sincerely that I have not been able to meet you in England. A few days before you arrived in Bristol I left that city for a short trip in So. Wales. Every thing seems to be favorable in this country for the Continent for a grand alliance of all good men for the overthrow of Slavery, War and all the other great system of iniquity which have so long oppressed the world. It was one of the principal objects I had in view in visiting this country, to form the nucleus of a great League of Universal Brotherhood, which would be to Slavery, War, Intemperance, Ignorance, Political & Social Inequalities what the Anti-Corn League was to Monopoly in this country. I submitted the above Pledge a few weeks ago and about 500 have already signed it, I have had these pledges circulated in the U. S. A. and hope the like number of names has already been secured there. I am going from place to place on foot, holding social

meetings in private houses and trying to interest people in the cause. Thus far I have succeeded beyond all my expectation. After going up and down the country on foot in this way, I propose to go over to France and try to get something into circulation there which shall promote some of the objects contemplated by the constitution of the Congress especially Free Trade – Cheap Postage, Railroads & Magnetic Telegraphs across the boundaries that have made enemies of nations. Before I go, I intend to get into the London Times if possible, some article demonstrating the feasibility of Great Britain establishing penny ocean postage, as a preliminary movement for penny postage over the world. That is, St. Boston shall carry letters wherever ships can swim for one penny each, so that all necessary will be to put one Queen's Head on a letter for the seaboard, and another to pay its transit across the ocean. This would bring the nations into the necessity of a corresponding reduction of postage rates, until a world's penny postage might at last be achieved, and then woe to slavery, war &c.

But another plan is in my mind viz. to adopt the little plan of the Free Labor produce Association of Philadelphia, and expand it to a great system which should finally bring every mother's son of the non-slave holders of the South into antagonism to their feudal barons of the South, thus averaging against slavery

the powerful interest of free labor right on its bloodstained territory. This I had thought might be achieved by the establishment of a cotton factory in America, one in England and another in France, which should manufacture none other than free labor cotton produced in the Slave States. These factories should supply establishment in different sections & their respective countries with cloth free from the taint of slavery. These are a few of the measures which I had thought might be commenced on the platform of the League of Universal Brotherhood which, you will see, is exceeding broad; I should be very glad if you would give your name to this pledge and Frederick Douglass, and other friends that may be at hand. I am on my way slowly towards Exeter, & should be glad to hear from you there. I enclose a fly leaf containing the pledge, which I hope you will remit to me there, with your own name and the names of your friends subscribed. Please direct to the care of Mr John Dymond, Cornwall & Devon Bank. I think I shall not return to the United States this fall, but remain here over the winter and until the first meeting of the League, which will probably be held next July; when I hope many delegates from America will be present to participate in the organisation of the first world's society. I sincerely hope you will be of the number.

Your friend & brother
Elihu Burritt